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Quick Phone Number

Emergency Shortcut Urged

Request for a simple three-digit phone number for calling emergency services has been made by Central Saanich Chamber of Commerce.

"Having to use seven letters and figures is very confusing when a person is under the strain of an emergency," said Central Saanich Coun. W. F. Grafton.

"Numbers are forgotten, the card with the numbers on it cannot be found, time is lost looking the number up in the book," he said.

"All over England," he continued, "there is one simple number, 999, which is used for emergency calls. The same situation exists in Winnipeg and surrounding municipalities. I don't see any reason why the same thing can't be done here."

Officials of B.C. Telephone Co. have suggested that because of the complications in the suggestion, time be allowed at a chamber meeting for the subject to be discussed with company representatives.

"Their attitude now is to turn it down," said Coun. R. G. Lee. "I suspect that it will cost money to put the system in. Right now we have the feeling they're giving us the brush-off."

Peninsula Gardens Added to Festival

Tour of Saanich Peninsula gardens has been added to the annual routes of Victoria Horticultural Society's spring garden festival this year.

Fifteen of the district's finest gardens will be open to the public May 7 to 9, with the new peninsula tour on the final day.

Man Badly Burned In Propane Blast

Firemen Check Gas Explosion Damage

Firemen Edward Hunt and Joseph Sutherland examine office damage following a flash fire and explosion at Rockgas Propane Ltd., 2519 Douglas yesterday.—(Colonist photo.)

Windows Blown Into Street

Propane gas explosion and fire badly burned one man and blew out a couple of plate glass windows in the 2500-block Douglas late yesterday.

Henning E. Jansen, 29, of 1518 Fell, was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital for treatment of first and second-degree burns to his hands and face. He is employed as a serviceman for Rockgas Propane Ltd., 2519 Douglas. His condition last night was good.

RAN TO HELP

Mr. Jansen's cries for help brought passer-by Joseph Garnham, 90 King George Terrace, running into the premises, where gas-fed flames were already licking up interior partitions.

"The fellow inside was pretty panicky," said Mr. Garnham. "There was a tank of gas on the floor, with a hose attached to it. The hose was shooting flames like a blow-torch.

'TAKE THIS'

"He was pretty badly burned about the hands and arms, I guess. He shouted to me, 'Take this . . . take this'."

Mr. Garnham said he took the flaming hose and grabbed a small fire extinguisher from the wall which he played on the flames until it was empty.

FIRST RUN

By this time the building was full of smoke and the heat was becoming unbearable. Three fire trucks arrived shortly afterward. It was their first run from the city's new fire hall.

Despite pain from his burns, Mr. Jansen sought out police and advised them to move the crowd back to a safe distance because there was danger of another explosion of propane stored at the rear of the premises.

SHEET OF FLAME

An eye-witness to the explosion was shoe repairman Albert Simpson, who was standing outside his store across the street talking with a customer when the windows of the Rockgas and propane premises blew out with a roar and a sheet of flame.

Jagged glass fragments littered the sidewalk and were hurled beyond the middle of the road by the blast. "It was a wonderful piece of luck that no pedestrians or cars were passing on that side," said Mr. Simpson.

"IF I'D KNOWN"

Mr. Garnham had just parked his car half a block down the street when he heard the explosion and ran to lend a hand. Afterward he said: "If I'd known there was propane gas, I'd probably have thought twice before going in."

Firemen extinguished the blaze in a few minutes. Damage to the interior wasn't extensive.

Square Dancers at Roundup

Katherine MacLeod, 10, and Gary Moser, 11, were among youthful square dancers in the Square Dance Pantomime part of the entertainment at the sixth annual Square Dance Roundup in Memorial Arena last night. See Page 6.—(Colonist photo)

Good Turn with Mower

Service with a file is offered by Scout John Dodds, 93 Linden, before attacking the lawn of old-age pensioner R. W. Chapman, 65 Sims. With fellow Scouts Bruce Anderson, Steve Edginton and Win Verwijk, John cut the lawn and weeded the garden of Mr. Chapman who "was surprised that they would come and do it and not take anything for it." The 12 Scouts of 1st Centennial Troop will continue this service to elderly people during the next few months.—(Colonist photo)

Smaller Buses Paid Off

Introduction of smaller buses, as suggested by Reeve A. C. Wurtele of Esquimalt as a solution to Victoria's transit problems, has brought the Bay City, Mich., bus transport system "out of the red."

Bay City officials report successful operation of imported Volkswagen and English Ford buses in non-peak periods. Population of Bay City is 52,000, approximately the same as Victoria proper.

Proposal for use of the small bus system in Victoria area failed to win B.C. Electric approval.

Taggers Get $2,318 For Palsy

Cerebral Palsy Clinic yesterday credited hundreds of Victoria high school and junior high student taggers for success of the clinic's first tag day of the year.

Tag day convener Mrs. C. H. Miller reported that $2,318 was donated, just $20 less than last year's total. Proceeds assist more than 70 children of the district who are attending the clinic.

Span Job Unique

Johnson Street bridge will open to traffic during the pre-dawn hours on Monday, ending emergency traffic measures which have been in effect since the span was knocked out of commission by the hull of the Salvage King on April 3.

West Coast engineering history may have been made on the unique repair job, which involved removing and replacing a main structural girder of a standing bridge.

Prize Total Of $1,400 For Bingo

Cash prizes totalling $1,400 will be up for grabs at the Victoria Optimist Club's bingo to be held April 30 in Central Junior High School auditorium.

Proceeds will go to Optimist youth charities. Tickets at $1 each are available at Hudson's Bay Company, Diggon's, B.C. Meat Market, Victoria Photo Supply, Pacific Tire, Gem Fish and Chips, Irene's Coffee Bar and Willis Travel Service.

Jaycee Roadeo

Drivers Imperfect —But All Good

Only person who achieved a perfect score in yesterday's Jaycee-sponsored safe driving roadeo was a committee member who rode through the obstacle course on a bicycle.

A Jaycee spokesman said the course at B.C. Electric bus depot, Douglas and Garbally was "pretty tough" and he thought the fact that the 19 drivers were "closely grouped indicated they would be good drivers out on the city streets."

Winner of the perpetual roadeo trophy and a $25 cash award was 17-year-old Grant MacFarlane, of 2886 Murray Drive, who will go to Vancouver for the Jaycee's provincial roadeo May 27.

Second place winner Donald Tyrrell, 17, of 3981 Wilkinson Road was awarded $15, and top girl contestant was Barbara Johnston, 16, of Feltham Road. Gordon Head, who received $10.

Sale Sails To Success

Perfect yachting weather here yesterday sparked one of the most successful marine auctions ever held on the Pacific coast.

Eighteen vessels ranging from 15-foot outboards to a sleek 40-foot cabin cruiser went on the Maynard's block at Canoe Cove, grossing $75,000.

Top price of the day was $13,500 for "Cover Girl," a 40-foot cabin cruiser.

He Wanted a New Boat —Now He's Got One

He was in the market to get a new boat, but not any longer.

"I can't hardly believe it," said D. W. Hughes, 1136 Summit, when Vic-Van-Isle Kinsmen phoned to tell him he was the winner of a 14-foot runabout, with trailer and outboard, valued in all at $2,500.

His ticket was drawn at the close of the Kinsmen's first annual boat show last night which was seen by an estimated 15,000 Victorians during the three days it occupied the Victoria Curling Club.

Mr. Hughes, chief engineer at Royal Jubilee Hospital, told the Colonist he is owner of a seven-year-old boat of about the same size as his new one, and was ready to give it up for a new one anyway.

His family, including two teen-age boys and a 13-year-old daughter, all enjoy pleasure boating, usually near their "small place" on Deep Cove.

KNUD CHRISTIANSEN

★ ★ ★

Seen in Passing

Knud Christiansen with rare daffodil from Ireland called Brougshane at flower show in Crystal Garden. (He resides and operates a nursery at 3945 Saanich Road. His wife is the daffodil expert, he specializes in rhododendrons and azeleas. He started in the business 20 years ago as a hobby) . . . **Lawrence Christian** looking for the coat he left at the credit union office a few days before . . . **Vera Theaker** calling an accompanist out of retirement to take part in a community concert . . . **Dorothy Rayburn** busy organizing the Sidney Queen contest . . . **Helen Watling,** wearing a pink wig . . . **Mrs. Ann Bingham,** showing off a new skirt . . . **Flo Strandlie,** welcoming Victoria sunshine after a harsh Prairie spring . . . **Thordis Anderson,** suffering from effects of a college English exam.

Stamp Marks Royal Visit

A red, five-cent postage stamp to commemorate the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to Canada this summer will go on sale June 18, date of the start of the Royal visit, Postmaster-General William Hamilton announced yesterday.

Pulpit Switch Sought

Vancouver Island Baptists will introduce a novel note to services one Sunday this summer when pastors from eight Baptist churches will be asked to exchange pulpits with each other for one day.

A resolution asking the clergy to co-operate in such a move was passed yesterday by nearly 100 delegates to the semi-annual meeting of the Vancouver Island Baptist Association held in Douglas Street Baptist Church.

SPEAKERS

Delegates heard addresses by Rev. Harry Pike, pastor of the Church by the Lake, and Dr. Enid McRuer of the South Africa general mission.

A. W. Browett, 3106 Washington, was elected secretary-treasurer to succeed Phillip Kelly.

Presiding at the meeting was Rev. Cecil Barner, president of the association. Delegates represented congregations from Victoria, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Chemainus and Elk Lake.

His Crown In Ring

In order to give youngsters a preview of social organization, the children's band of the Calvary Baptist Church at Chemainus recently elected a president and secretary from among its ranks.

One youngster, not to be outranked, raised his hand and when asked what he wanted said, "I want to be king."

Water Report Promised Later

Release within two weeks of the Dawson report on a municipal water system has been promised by Reeve H. R. Brown of Central Saanich.

Promise came after former reeve Sydney Pickles had asked a council meeting for immediate publication of the document.

"It may be harmful to later developments if we let it out right now," the reeve told Mr. Pickles. "People might misconstrue some of the things in it."

Chamber Probes Abuses Of Unemployment Fund

A probe into abuses of the unemployment insurance funds is being undertaken by the civic affairs group of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce.

Victoria MP A. DeB. McPhillips has been asked by the chamber to supply information about the original act, its amendments and details of its financial results over the past few years.

Eric Mallett, chairman of the group, told directors of the chamber yesterday that it was common knowledge that there were many people abusing the fund with the end result that it was costing much more than it should.

"We want to look at the funds, its method of operation, its results and its future," said Mr. Mallett.

First Gas Attack

Anniversary Of Grim Day

A banquet commemorating April 22, 1915, when poison gas was used by the German army for the first time in war, will be held by the Red Chevron Association of Vancouver Island, at 6.30 p.m., Friday, in the Blue Room, 1303 Broad.

The unique veteran organization was named after the "red chevron" lower sleeve insignia issued to those men engaged in an active theatre of war in the year 1914. Blue chevrons were issued in subsequent years of the First World War.

30 UNITS

The association is comprised primarily of survivors of some 50,000 men in about 30 units of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and includes members of the armed forces of the Empire who were actively engaged in 1914.

At least 10 infantry battalions as well as artillery, engineers and other divisional units will be represented by the 60 to 70 veterans who will attend the banquet.

A Red Chevron spokesman said yesterday that "although it is 44 years since the world stood aghast at the utilization of this horrible and then new weapon, to the men who will gather to re-live the events of other days, the recollection is fresh and vivid."

"It was the first major engagement involving the Canadians," he said, when a gas cloud was released on a section of front line occupied by French Colonial troops and the First Canadian Division.

The French gave way, creating a gap three miles wide, and despite terrible casualties the untried soldiers of Canada stood fast, he said, an act that inspired British army commander-in-chief Sir John French to say, "The Canadians saved the situation."

Surviving members of the local unit will stand in silent tribute to their fallen comrades before entering the events of the banquet evening.

No Uprising, Just Army Practising

Saanich residents need not think a revolution has started when some 3,000 rounds are fired at Heals range today.

It will simply be the 5th (B.C.) Independent Medium Battery holding rifle practice.

About 60 men from the unit will fire 50 rounds each of live ammunition from NATO 7.62-millimetre automatic FN rifles. There will be no danger to nearby residents.

Requiem Mass Set For Mother Mildred

Requiem Mass will be sung at 8.30 a.m. Tuesday in St. Ann's Academy chapel for Mother Mary Mildred, 84, who died last week.

Sooke-born member of St. Ann's Roman Catholic nuns will be buried in the sisters' plot of Ross Bay Cemetery.